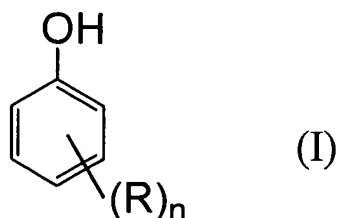


IN THE CLAIMS:

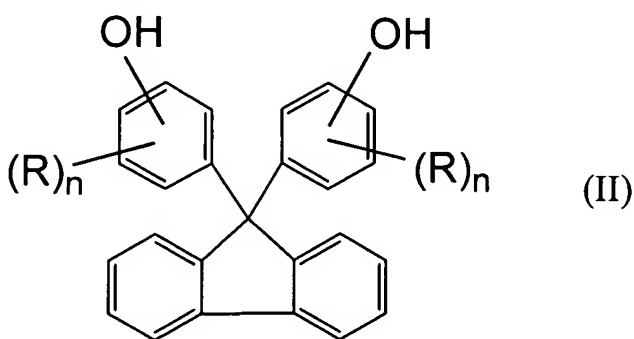
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently Amended*): A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4, and the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises phenol or a C₁₋₄alkylphenol.

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a mercaptocarboxylic acid and a 5% to 37% by weight hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II)



wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and

wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the mercaptocarboxylic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the 5% to 37% by weight hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3, the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the mercaptocarboxylic acid is 1.0/0.05 to 1.0/0.3 and an extractant is added to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to

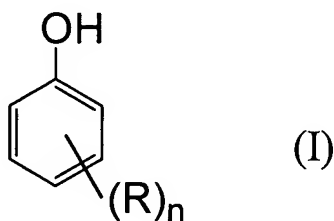
distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and a crystallization solvent is added to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises a 2-C₁₋₄alkylphenol or a 3-C₁₋₄alkylphenol.

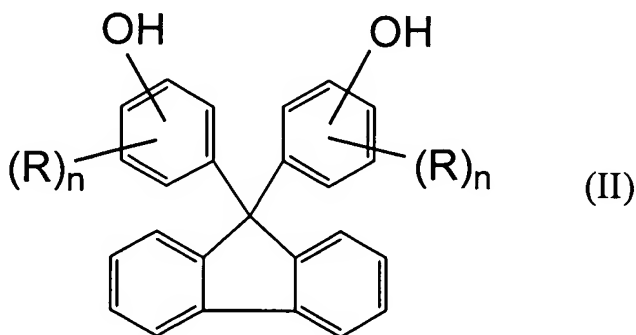
4. - 8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented): A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4,

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a thiol and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II):



wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and

wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the thiol relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3.0 and the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the thiol is 1.0/0.05 to 1.0/0.3.

10. (Canceled):

11. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 9, wherein the proportion (weight ratio) thiol relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 1/0.3 to 1/2.

12. – 13. (Canceled):

14. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 9, wherein the proportion of (weight ratio) fluorenone relative to thiol is 1/0.08 to 1/0.15.

15. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 9, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 5 to 37% by weight.

16. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 15, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 25 to 37% by weight.

17. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 16, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 30 to 37% by weight.

18. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 9, wherein the thiol is a mercaptocarboxylic acid.

19. (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
adding an extractant to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and
adding a crystallization solvent to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.

20. *(Previously presented)*: A method for producing a 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C₁₋₄alkylphenyl)fluorene, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a C₁₋₄alkylphenol to a condensation reaction in coexistence with γ-mercaptopropionic acid and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain the 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C₁₋₄alkylphenyl)fluorene, and

wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the γ-mercaptopropionic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3 and the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to γ-mercaptopropionic acid is 1/0.05 to 1/0.3.